

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] Cut-out 25 may have any of a number of other shapes, which may be configured according to the interest or business of the particular vendor or retailer for whom the cups are made. For example, cut-out 25 may be a triangle, as shown in Figs. 4-5, or any other geometric shape, such as a circle, oval, square, rectangle, diamond, etc. In addition, any of the following shapes may also be used for cut-out 25: apple (Fig. 9B), teddy bear (Fig. 9C) or other animal, flame (Fig. 9D), heart (Fig. 9E), leaf (Fig. 9F and 9G), moon or crescent (Fig. 9H), star (Fig. 9I), vinca (Fig. 9J), droplet (or tear drop) (Fig. 9K), butterfly (Fig. 9L), shell (Fig. 9M), sun (Fig. 9N), tree (Fig. 9O), flower (Fig. 9P, 9Q and 9R), umbrella (Fig. 9S), spiral (Fig. 9T), arrowhead (Fig. 9U), lips (Fig. 9V), as well as any other conceivable shape. Cut-out 25 should be such that it disperses outward the tearing pressure that extends downward along slits 20, due to the circumferential spreading pressure of the cup within insulating sleeve 1. Cut-out 25 may be ~~longer or smaller~~ longer or smaller than those depicted in the drawings, as necessary to accomplish the stated purpose.